

THE KABUL TIMES

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Kabul 08° Rain | Kandahar 21° Cloudy | Herat 20° Light rain | Jalalabad 20° Cloudy | Mazar-e-Sharif 18° showers | Bamyan 1° Light snow

Beradar returns from Uzbekistan: Power transmission price reduced

KABUL: A high-ranking delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate for Economic Affairs, returned to the country after a two-day visit to Uzbekistan, the office of the deputy PM for economic affairs said in a statement Sunday.

Beradar-led delegation encompassed a number of cabinet members and representatives of sectorial agencies who visited Uzbekistan to expand political, economic, and trade relations between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, as well as to attract investment from Uzbek traders in Afghanistan, the statement said.

Speaking to the media at Kabul International Airport, Mullah Beradar described the visit as fruitful and said that during the trip, he met with the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, the Deputy Prime Minister, and officials from various institutions and held talks on a number of key issues including agriculture, electricity, transport, trade, and railway development.



The Deputy PM highlighted that the contract for the 500-kilovolt power transmission project, initially valued at $252 million, was reduced to $222 million after negotiations with Uzbek officials.

Regarding railway development, he announced that Uzbekistan's technical railway teams would soon visit Afghanistan to conduct preliminary studies on extending the railway from Hairatan to Herat.

Once these studies are completed and funded by Uzbekistan, the implementation phase of the railway project will begin, he further stated that Tashkent has agreed to lift restrictions on Afghan agricultural exports, which will lead to an increase in Afghanistan's agricultural exports to that country.

Referring to the import of electricity from Uzbekistan, the Deputy Prime Minister noted that an agreement had been reached to increase the electricity supply and reduce tariffs in the coming year.

The Kabul Times

U.S.-leftover weapons belong to Afghans, Mujahid

KABUL: The spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, said Sunday in a statement on his X page that the U.S.-leftover weapons belong to Afghan people and are not linked to the Americans.

"U.S.-left over weapons are considered spoils of war, and will be used to defend religion, the country, and independence," Mujahid said.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed hope that they will return the seized weapons in Afghanistan to Washington.



The Islamic Emirate has firmly rejected the return of the weapons, declaring them the property of the Afghan people.

The Kabul Times

Uzbekistan committed to trade, transit cooperation with Afghanistan, Aripov

KABUL: Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, during a meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate, said that his country is committed to expanding trade, economic and transit cooperation with Afghanistan.

The office of the deputy PM for economic affairs said Sunday in a statement that Mullah Beradar and his accompanying delegation visited Uzbekistan to strengthen political, economic, and trade relations between the two countries, as well as to attract investment from Uzbek businessmen in the country.

Afghan and Uzbek sides focused on the implementation of various agreements between the two countries, the statement said.

Referring to the Islamic Emirate's foreign policy, Deputy PM Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar stated: "The IEA's stance toward neighboring, regional and countries is based on neutrality and the principle of non-interference, and Afghanistan expects the same commitment to this principle from other nations."

"The Islamic Emirate has taken serious measures against the cultivation, production, use, and trafficking of narcotics and has successfully prevented their smuggling into other neighboring countries," the statement quoted him as saying.

He assured neighboring, regional, and global nations that Afghanistan's territory would not be used against any country and that Afghanistan poses no threat to them.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the expansion of railways and road infrastructure between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan as a crucial and fundamental issue.

He invited the Uzbek side to invest in the Mazar-e-Sharif–Herat railway project, which would extend to Kandahar and connect Uzbekistan to Iran and China, and would expand Tashkent's trade with South Asian countries, Iran, and China, thereby playing a significant role in regional stability and development.

See P4

DAB governor discusses trade, economy with Uzbek counterpart in Tashkent

KABUL: The Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, the country's central bank, Mawlavi Noor Ahmad Agha, met with his Uzbek counterpart, Timur Ishmetov, in Tashkent where the two sides discussed various bilateral issues, the bank said in a statement Sunday. In the meeting, according to the statement, the two sides discussed expanding bilateral cooperation, facilitating banking transactions, capacity-building, using the national currencies of both countries in trade, and enhancing and connecting payment systems.



The governor of Da Afghanistan Bank highlighted the importance of strengthening banking ties between Kabul and Tashkent as a foundation for further growth in trade relations between the two nations. "Afghanistan is committed to establishing banking relations with countries worldwide," the statement quoted him as saying.

Meanwhile, the Governor of the Central Bank of Uzbekistan emphasized the role of banking cooperation in boosting trade and assured the Afghan delegation of Uzbekistan's support in this field.

Leading a high-ranking delegation the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, left the country two days ago for Tashkent the capital of Uzbekistan.

The Kabul Times

Kandahar exports dried fruits worth over $244 mln, official

KANDAHAR: The Chamber of Commerce and Investment Department of Kandahar said in a statement Sunday that 62,310 tons of dried fruits worth $244.6 million have been exported to the world markets within 11 months of the outgoing solar year.

The exported dried fruit included figs and apricots, the statement said.

According to the statement, some dried fruit traders in Kandahar said that global demand for Afghan dried fruits is on the rise.

"Every week, we process tens of tons of dried fruits, including figs and raisins, and pack according to global demand in various sizes and other measurements, and then export them to various countries around the world," the statement quoted a dried fruit trader as saying. Most of the province's dried fruits were exported to India, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. **The Kabul Times**



270,000 electronic ID cards distributed in past month, NSIA

KABUL: A total of 270,000 electronic ID cards have been distributed within the last month of the current solar year across the country, the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said in a statement Sunday.

The ID cards have been distributed through scores of ID card distribution centers, most of which have been distributed in the Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar, and Helmand provinces, the statement said.

According to the statement, more than 10,500 people have been provided with services after the distribution of IDs in the same period.

Efforts are underway to activate further ID card distribution centers in remote areas of the country and provide more people with the electronic Tazkira.

The Kabul Times



Millions of saplings to be planted nationwide this year, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said in a statement Sunday that it plans to plant 16 million saplings throughout the country this year. Abdul Ahad Khalil Karim, Director General of Natural Resources of the ministry, said at a ceremony in Badam Bagh, Kabul, that the MAIL launched a plan to plant saplings in the country for the next two years, which will cost 269 million Afghani.

He added that 560 million Afghani have been collected in revenue from forests and forestry in the country over the past three years.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock inaugurated a sapling planting campaign to welcome the spring season of 1404 as it approaches. The campaign under the title "Today's Sapling; Future Prosperity", was attended by a number of senior officials of the Islamic Emirate.

An expert on agricultural affairs stresses that besides sapling plantations, attention should also be paid to their protection.

See P4

International-Daily

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Afghan-Pak border closure, migration issues should be resolved permanently

As frequently expressed, both Afghanistan and Pakistan have shared cultural and religious ties and it has been too difficult to separate the two nations from each other in the course of history.

A few days ago, Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar who is also the country's deputy prime minister reaffirmed that his country was committed to cooperation with its neighbor Afghanistan in all fields, particularly in the field of economy.

According to him, given the shared cultural, religious, and historical ties between the two nations, Islamabad remains committed to cooperation with the Islamic Emirate.

He once again emphasized that his country must be assured by Kabul that Afghanistan's territory will never be used against his country. This is while, the Islamic Emirate has long assured that even an inch of the country would never be used against other countries, particularly Afghan neighbors.

"We are neighbors, we have a common culture, we have a common religion, and we have a common history. So, we want Afghanistan to prosper and develop. It is a landlocked country. We have given all the assistance, and we will continue to provide all the assistance to Afghanistan," this is what the Pakistani foreign minister said about his country's continued relations with our country. But both the government and the people of Afghanistan call on the Pakistani authorities to put into practice what they assert about Afghan migration and border issues, as we are waiting for a long, and lasting solution to the entire problems the two countries are facing.

The two countries are now facing dilemmas in connection with migration, border military dispute, border blockage, etc. and there is a critical need for the two nations to live in peace and security through a firm plan made by the two countries' governments. The issue relating to undocumented Afghan migrants currently living in Pakistan should not be made as big as Afghanistan cannot tolerate their return. The Islamic Emirate can provide the Afghan returnees with shelter, aid, and other accommodations but not at once; this could happen gradually and under principled conditions.

Afghans with eligible documents and travel visas to other countries should be given the required opportunities by the neighboring country to be flown to the second country.

Recently, the border along Torkham crossing has been reportedly closed by the neighboring countries' border guards facing thousands of Afghan travelers, mostly patients with challenges.

They are waiting for the reopening of the border to enter the country for treatment.

The issue of border disputes should be settled as soon as possible as both nations need security and the Islamic Emirate forces never want insurgents' infiltration into the two countries' borders to disturb the security of the two neighbors. So, any border challenges including commercial and other communication closures should be discussed by the related joint commission, and the Pakistani side should not politicalize economic issues and keep the borders between the two countries open, under tight security.

On the other hand, the neighboring country should be sure that Afghanistan's soil is not used against other countries, particularly its neighbors, rather it is seeking cooperation for suppressing and cracking down on all kinds of militants planning to influence the two countries' borders.

Role of media in shaping public opinion

Part IV

The lack of beneficial content, weak political and social analyses, and the dependency of media outlets on specific interest groups prevented Afghan media from fulfilling its primary duty: enlightening and intellectually uplifting society.

Over the past two decades, Afghanistan has witnessed a significant expansion of its media landscape.

From private television channels to radio stations, newspapers, and digital media, the industry has grown into a competitive field.

However, this quantitative expansion has not always been accompanied by the desired level of quality.



In many cases, instead of fostering awareness, the media has served as a platform for promoting unstable political agendas, intellectual corruption, and the misguidance of public opinion.

The lack of beneficial content, weak political and social analyses, and the dependency of media outlets on specific interest groups prevented Afghan media from fulfilling its primary duty: enlightening and intellectually uplifting society.

One of the biggest challenges Afghan media faced during the Republic era was its heavy financial reliance on foreign sources.

Many media outlets operated with funding from international organizations, embassies, external institutions, and politically influential individuals.

This dependency meant that their content was often tailored to serve the interests of their financial sponsors rather than those of the Afghan people.

As a result, instead of addressing the realities of society, the media focused on promoting and advertising values that were often in conflict with the culture and identity of Afghanistan's people.

This situation became so evident that it turned into a widely recognized saying: "Whoever provides the bread, gives the orders."

During the twenty years of the Republic, many media outlets became mere propaganda tools for political parties, factions, and even individual figures.

Major television channels and newspapers were largely controlled by power circles, prioritizing partisan interests over neutral analysis.

Instead of offering unbiased insights, they engaged in political rivalries and worked toward advancing specific group agendas.

Although some media outlets remained impartial, providing informative and educational content to the public, they were unfortunately very few in number.

The politicization of media led to a departure from its core mission of honest reporting and public awareness.

Since the dominant political figures in the former government derived much of their influence from ethnic affiliations, they often used their media platforms to threaten the government whenever their personal interests were not met.

This manipulation of media for political leverage exacerbated divisions and fueled tensions.

The consequences of this politicization and lack of media neutrality will be further analyzed in upcoming sections.

The absence of deep and professional analysis in Afghan media during the Republic era became a serious problem.

Media outlets primarily focused on superficial and sensational news, with little attention given to scientific and in-depth analyses.

Talk shows and discussion programs often lacked expert guests and were reduced to fruitless and repetitive debates.

In many cases, journalists, lacking sufficient knowledge on critical issues, merely relayed unverified news and rumors, leading to public confusion and distrust in the media.

The media's focus was often on opposing the government rather than providing balanced reporting.

This constant antagonism created a strained relationship between the government and the press, resulting in negative consequences for information dissemination and the safety of media professionals.

Furthermore, it left the general public anxious and disoriented.

One of the biggest issues in Afghan media during the Republic was widespread media corruption.

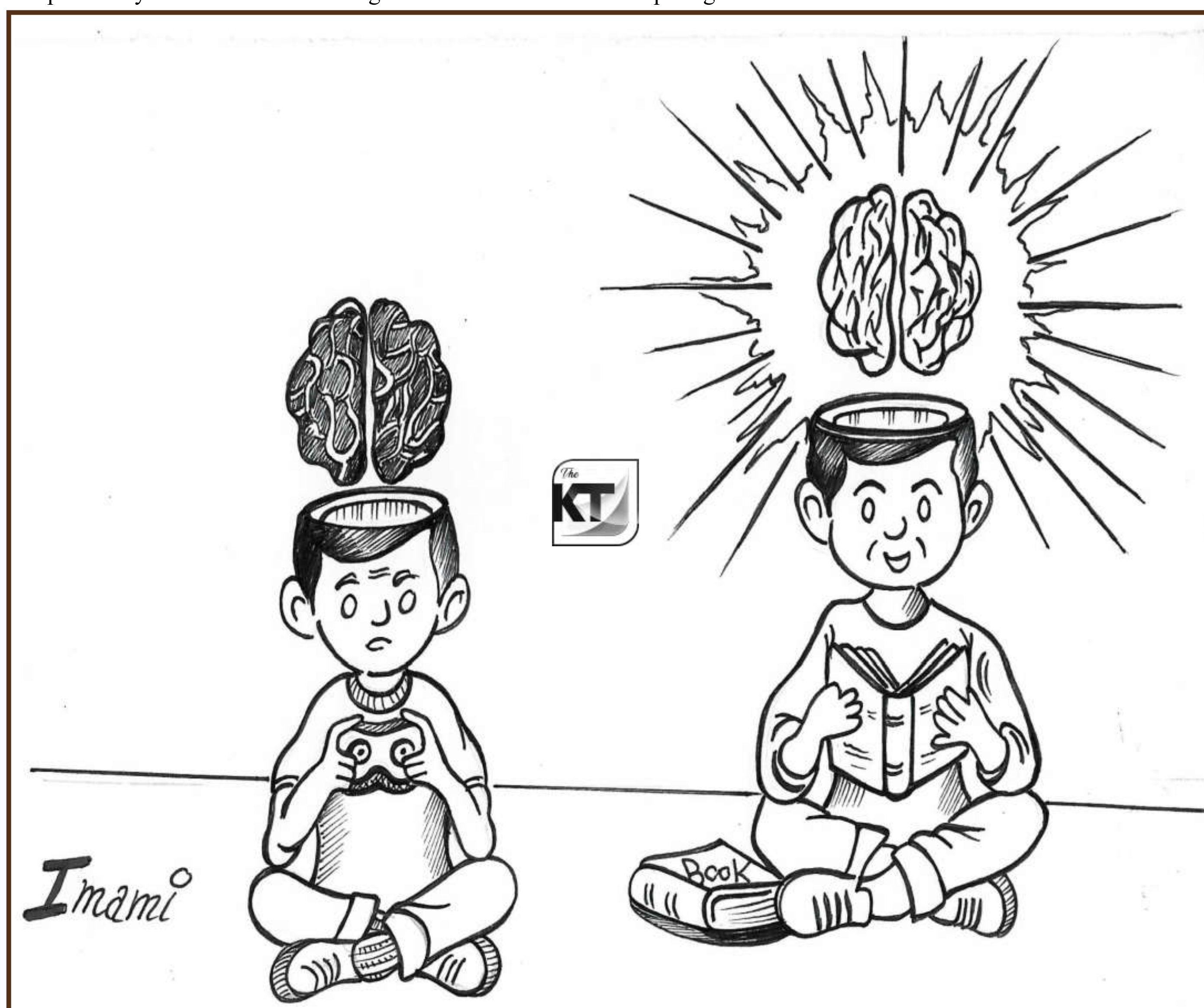
While not all media outlets and journalists were involved in such practices—there were indeed those who upheld their responsibilities with integrity—many prioritized financial gains over ethical journalism.

Instead of producing independent and impartial reports, some journalists and media organizations engaged in promotional campaigns for political, business, and even criminal figures in exchange for money and special privileges.

In extreme cases, some media outlets turned into blackmailing tools, leveraging the threat of exposing information to extract benefits from influential figures.

This misuse of media distorted the true essence of freedom of speech, transforming the press into an instrument for personal and group interests rather than a means of serving the public good.

FiroozAhmad Ebrahemi



Increasing propaganda & the need for national unity

In recent weeks, a number of regional and international media outlets have once again increased their propaganda against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Their propaganda is mostly based on fake news, confuses the minds of the people, and seeks to undermine national stability.

The people of Afghanistan must be vigilant against any kind of false propaganda, remain committed to their national unity, and thwart the conspiracies of the enemy.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is united as always, has a clear and united leadership, and has full sovereignty over every part of the country.

This proves the false claims of some regional and international media outlets trying to highlight internal differences or create an atmosphere of instability. The nation must understand that such propaganda is designed by foreign circles, whose aim is to harm the development of Afghanistan.

In such circumstances, the media, religious scholars, teachers, and all conscious people committed to national values need to fulfill their responsibility against the ongoing propaganda war.

The country's national media should play an active role in clarifying the truth, scholars should go and preach to the people the value of unity and brotherhood based on Islamic principles, and teachers should give the younger generation a sense of national unity and understanding of the enemy's plots. We as Afghans have suffered from more than four decades of wars and violence, from the attacks of international invaders both the East and the West that have so severely damaged our country and nation culturally, economically, and socially. Due to the continued wars and violence, we did not get the chance to work for the development and betterment of the country.Considering the past situation and ongoing challenges facing the country and nation, every Afghan living inside and outside the country has a religious and national duty to stand by his current national sovereignty and make every effort towards the country's all-round development, prosperity, and freedom from the needs of others. It is time that our educated people, intellectuals, politicians, teachers, religious scholars, and other influential people in society should understand the evil of their enemies and not be deceived by their cunning and lies. They should make sincere efforts to the utmost to achieve mutual unity and strengthen the system.



The people of Afghanistan have always proven in the past years that they are united in the face of instability, internal disputes, and external pressures.

Today, Afghans need to continue to maintain their united front, not be influenced by false propaganda, and work to further strengthen its Islamic system.

With national unity, political stability, and mutual trust, we can lead Afghanistan towards development and move it to a bright future.

Sayed Sharif

Freedom; a critical examination of its evolution & influence

Part III

The concept of freedom in the modern era has evolved significantly, particularly in the West, where it has shaped political, social, economic, and religious structures.

The modern era, which began after the Middle Ages with the Renaissance, marked a period of intellectual and cultural revival.

Europe, influenced by ancient Greek philosophy and the scientific advancements of Muslim scholars, began progressing towards new ideologies.

This period laid the foundation for the development of freedom, which played a crucial role in shaping the principles of capitalism and the broader societal framework.

Capitalism, derived from the Latin word "Capitale," is an economic system fundamentally based on the principles of freedom.

It provided the ideological basis for structuring economic and social life.

Capitalism emerged in response to the oppressive rule of the church, monarchs, and ruling elites in Europe.

The excessive control and exploitation led to widespread dissatisfaction among the people, who, inspired by new intellectual movements, sought alternative systems.

One of the major consequences of this movement was the separation of religion from governance, which resulted in a secular approach to societal organization.

The Renaissance and subsequent Enlightenment period promoted human-centric ideologies, emphasizing that humans should determine their fate and govern themselves without divine intervention.

This shift from centrism to anthropocentrism became a defining characteristic of Western civilization.

The rise of capitalism was accompanied by the promotion of political freedom.

This notion emphasized that nations and people should have the right to self-governance without reliance on religious institutions or monarchy.

Political freedom in Western societies was institutionalized through democratic principles, where people could participate in governance through voting and lawmaking processes. Unlike Islamic governance, where legislative authority belongs to divine law, Western democracy placed sovereignty in the hands of the people.

Similarly, social freedom became a significant aspect of capitalist societies.

The notion that individuals should be free to act within legal boundaries without interference became a cornerstone of social organization.

Governments were tasked with ensuring personal freedoms, allowing individuals to pursue education, career development, and other personal endeavors without restrictions imposed by religious or aristocratic authorities.

Religious freedom in the West was largely influenced by the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.

The movement, which challenged the authority of the Catholic Church, led to widespread religious conflicts and eventually the establishment of religious tolerance.



The wars and destruction caused by religious strife convinced Western societies to advocate for freedom of belief and the separation of church and state.

See P4

Impact of social media: Opportunities & challenges

Finally, the development of social media in Afghanistan has brought about positive changes in the formation of relationships between people in the country, but despite this, there are also some negative aspects that irresponsible use of these social media channels increases the problems of individual and social life.

The development of social media has also caused some negative aspects.

The spread of misinformation, psychological problems among young people, violation of privacy, and the spread of online deception are all negative effects that harm society.

Young people in particular, who become addicted to social media, are more vulnerable to the negative effects of various platforms of the social media.

They are forced to weaken social ties by making good connections and significantly losing their real-life relationships, which results in problems in their personal lives and discord and chaos at the community level.

In addition, sharing propaganda, misinformation and online deception lead to the weakening of trust and harmony in society.

To reduce these negative effects and make positive use of social media, Afghans, especially young people, should think seriously about the use of various social media platforms.

They should respect their responsibilities, religious principles, and social values.

These should be used to carry out activities that are beneficial not only for themselves, but also for the development of society.

Sharing positive messages as informative health-related, educational, cultural, and social information, solving issues that are important to society, and striving to resist corruption, injustice, and social weakness should be the main goals of Afghan social media activists.

Afghans should understand that social media channels are not just for building personal relationships, but are also important tools for social change, development, and protecting the country's national identity.



They can be also powerful tools for building positive, sound, and ethical relationships, so that trust, harmony, and unity can be strengthened at the community level.

In order to establish good relationships and promote social cohesion, it is essential that Afghans respect their ethics, religious principles, and social values when using social media.

They should try to protect themselves from negative influences and understand that building good relationships not only leads to success in an individual's personal life, but is also an essential part of establishing peace, progress, and unity in society.

Building good relationships not only changes an individual's personality, but also develops an atmosphere of trust, justice, and cooperation at the community level.

Through social media, we should strive to improve the social structure of society, find ways to address poverty and injustice and protect the identity and national values of Afghans.

Using social media with good relationships, serious goals, and cultural values is a great tool for the stability, peace, and development of society.

Afghans should understand that they must confront the negative aspects of social media.

This not only changes the independence and psychological state of the individual, but also causes discord, disunity, and chaos at the societal level.

If Afghans maintain their relationships positive and beneficial, it will lead to unity, progress and harmony not only in the life of the individual but also in the social structure.

Building good relationships will lead to peace, development, and the protection of their national values in the social aspect, which will result in the strengthening of the social structure.

Finally, the development of social media in Afghanistan has brought about positive changes in the formation of relationships between people in the country, but despite this, there are also some negative aspects that irresponsible use of these social media channels increases the problems of individual and social life.

Sharing false information, touching personal privacy and the creation of psychological problems are the negative effects that cause confusion and discord in the community.

These negative aspects cause people to have misconceptions about their lives, relationships and goals, which will ultimately weaken the social structure.

The end

Fida Mohammad

Afghan ethnics should unite; dispute in no one interest

Local media have recently reported an initiative from the country's tribal elders to travel to the nearby and remote provinces of the country to address disputes among different ethnic groups of the country.

Reports suggest that dozens of tribal elders from the eastern provinces of the country have traveled to Herat and Nimroz provinces to bring ethnic groups closer together and resolve disputes among some ethnic communities

According to the media, the elders emphasized that all ethnic groups residing in Afghanistan are the rightful owners of this land and have always stood against invaders throughout history.

"The ethnic groups of Afghanistan have experienced many wars and hardships, and now it is time for us to unite. We should no longer say that one person is from Herat, and another from Laghman, Kunar, Kunduz, or Panjshir. All our ethnic groups are one, and we must unite more than ever," said Ahmad Jan, a tribal elder from Kunar, as quoted by TOLOnews TV.

Amanullah Malikzada, a tribal elder from Herat, said: "If there is any conflict in the east of the country, we are ready to take action to ensure peace and bring people closer together. The tribal elders who have come here have declared that if there are disputes among ethnic groups, they will work to reconcile them."

At the same time, another group of tribal elders from the eastern provinces has traveled to Nimroz. They stress that Afghanistan is the common home of all Afghans, and solidarity and unity among different ethnic groups must be strengthened.

"According to Sharia, defending Islam and our land requires the unity of Afghanistan's ethnic groups. If the ethnic groups of our country are not united, enemies will attack us from all sides," said Mohammad Qasim Khalid, the governor of Nimroz.

"We Afghans have always lived alongside each other. Our fathers and ancestors lived together in this common land, and it is part of our culture and tradition for different ethnic groups to be united," said Ebadullah Momand, a tribal elder from Nangarhar

Some tribal elders who visited Herat's recreational sites say that now that security has been ensured across the country, citizens should travel to different provinces to learn more about each other's cultures and traditions.

"When we return to our province, we will convey the message of the people of Herat to them. Surely, they will also come here and see its beauty. In the past, such security did not exist, and we could not travel freely, but now security is established, and we can travel anywhere in Afghanistan, day or night," stated Abdul Wali, a tribal elder from Laghman.

"I am 42 years old, and in my entire life, I have never experienced such security, stability, and peace. Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, security has greatly improved, and this is the first time I am visiting Herat," Mohammad Dawood, a tribal elder from Nangarhar, expressed

In recent months, tribal elders from different parts of the country have started traveling to other provinces to resolve ethnic disputes and strengthen unity and harmony among Afghan citizens.

In the country's eastern provinces, such as Jalalabad, Laghman, and southern provinces of Khost and Paktia provinces, dozens of tribal elders in cooperation with the related organs of the Islamic Emirate resolved many ethnic disputes with lots of families ending enmities of long years.

Inam Hashemi

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USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
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Australia breaks records by chasing down England in dramatic Champions Trophy

In an exciting match, Australia defeated England by 5 wickets in a thrilling encounter.

This game, part of the Champions Trophy or the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, took place in Lahore, Pakistan. England won the toss and opted to bat first, setting a target of 352 runs for Australia to chase after losing 8 wickets.

Australia, despite losing 5 wickets, successfully chased the target in 48 overs.

Josh Inglis was the standout performer for Australia, scoring the highest runs for his team with 120 runs.

For England, Ben Duckett was the top scorer, amassing an impressive 165 runs.

Duckett faced 143 balls, hitting three sixes and 17 fours to reach this remarkable total.

His performance became the highest individual score in the history of the Champions Trophy.

Additionally, Duckett's contribution helped England post the highest total in Champions Trophy history, surpassing previous records.

Before this match, England had posted 347 runs in 2004, and Pakistan had scored 338 in the 2017 Champions Trophy.

The previous record for the most individual runs in a Champions Trophy was held by New Zealand's Nathan Astle, who achieved it in 2004. Joe Root also contributed to England's total by scoring 68 runs.

Australia's bowling attack saw contributions from several players.

Ben Dwarshuis claimed 3 wickets, while Adam Zampa and Marnus Labuschagne took 2 wickets each. Glenn Maxwell picked up 1 wicket.

This match marked the highest-ever target successfully chased in a men's One Day International (ODI) in the ICC Champions Trophy.

With this victory, Australia is now on track to reach the semifinals.

The Kabul Times



First round of Wushu competitions held in Samangan

The first round of Wushu competitions was held in Samangan, organized by the Wushu Federation's local representation in collaboration with the Department of Physical Education and Sports of Samangan Province.

The event featured 30 athletes from three sports clubs, competing in the youth and junior categories over the course of one day.

The competition was structured as a series of individual fights, allowing athletes to showcase their skills and techniques in this dynamic martial art. Participants demonstrated remarkable dedication and prowess, representing their clubs with pride.

The event provided a platform for emerging talent in the region, highlighting the growing interest and participation in Wushu among young athletes.Throughout the day, athletes engaged in intense matches, testing their skills against opponents. The competitive spirit was palpable, with many fights showcasing not only physical strength but also strategic thinking and discipline.

As the competition progressed, 15 athletes distinguished themselves by defeating their rivals and securing the top positions in their respective categories.

This inaugural event not only celebrated the athletes' achievements but also aimed to promote Wushu as a discipline in Samangan.

The organizers expressed their satisfaction with the turnout and the level of competition, noting the importance of such events in fostering sportsmanship and encouraging youth participation in physical activities.

The first Wushu competition in Samangan was a resounding success, marking a significant step forward for the sport in the region.

The event not only provided a competitive arena for young athletes but also laid the groundwork for future competitions, fostering a culture of martial arts and promoting physical fitness among the youth.

The Kabul Times

Boxing competition wraps up in Logar



On February 23, 2025, a boxing competition titled the "Ramadan Cup" took place in Pul-e-Alam, the capital city of Logar Province.

Organized by the Boxing Federation under the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports of Logar Province, the event brought together 54 athletes from four local boxing clubs.

The competition was designed to identify talented boxers and promote a healthy lifestyle among the youth, particularly as a means to steer them away from drug abuse.

The tournament featured participants across three age categories: young teens, junior youth, and senior youth.

These classifications ensured a fair and competitive environment, allowing athletes of varying experience levels to showcase their skills.

The event, which lasted for one day, drew significant attention as a platform for both sports and social good.

After intense matches, the results were announced, with Ehsanullah Knockdown Sports Club securing first place. Batoran Club came in second, while Shaheen Club took third position.

The achievements of these clubs highlighted the growing talent pool in Logar's boxing community and the dedication of the athletes involved.

The Ramadan Cup was more than just a sporting event; it carried a deeper purpose.

Organizers emphasized its role in combating the rising issue of drug addiction among young people in the region. By engaging youth in physical activities like boxing, the initiative aimed to foster discipline, resilience, and a sense of purpose, steering them toward positive alternatives.

This competition reflects a broader effort in Logar Province to support sports development and youth empowerment.

The success of the event underscores the potential of such initiatives to nurture athletic talent while addressing social challenges. As the day concluded, the Ramadan Cup left a lasting impression, celebrating both the spirit of competition and the promise of a healthier, drug-free future for the province's youth.

The Kabul Times

Afghan traders residing in Uzbekistan to invest millions of dollars in Afghanistan

KABUL: A number of Afghan businessmen and traders living in the neighboring country of Uzbekistan have expressed their willingness to invest $10 to $100 million in Afghanistan.

They made the remarks during a meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tashkent.

Afghan investors and traders residing in Uzbekistan expressed their support for the expansion of political and economic relations between Kabul and Tashkent, the office of the deputy PM for economic affairs said in a statement Sunday.

Speaking at the meeting, Beradar said: "With the help of Allah Almighty and the unparalleled sacrifices of Afghans, Afghanistan has been freed from global imperialist occupation and after decades, is now enjoying an unprecedented level of nationwide security."

He added that significant steps have been taken to develop the country's economic growth, major infrastructure projects have been initiated, road reconstruction is progressing rapidly, domestic production and exports have increased, and there has been a relative improvement in the trade balance.

"The investment and trade system has been cleansed of corruption and bureaucracy, and opportunities for investment in various sectors have been provided to both domestic and foreign investors," Beradar said, adding that over the past twenty years, Afghans, especially wealthy individuals, had no security for their lives, property, and dignity.

"Under the rule of the Islamic Emirate, the assets and dignity of businesspeople and investors are now safeguarded, allowing them to continue their enterprises in a secure environment," he said, emphasizing that investment in sectors such as energy, mining, agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, telecommunications, technology, and healthcare, among many others, is essential for the country's economic growth and development.

He urged Afghan investors to prioritize these sectors for investment.

The Deputy PM further stated that the Islamic Emirate considers full support for the private sector, the facilitation of investment opportunities for returning industrialists, businesspeople, and both domestic and foreign investors, as well as the advancement of domestic industries, as its responsibility and commitment.

He emphasized that the goal is to transform Afghanistan into a regional economic and trade hub and to further expand economic and commercial relations with all countries.

Addressing Afghan investors and traders, the Deputy PM said: "You are the pillars of our country's economic development. Your investments, experiences, and suggestions are valuable to us. Your investments and business activities bring economic benefits to all of Afghanistan. We want to create even more investment opportunities for you so that you can utilize your expertise and capital to develop industrial production, agriculture, transit, and other economic sectors."

He urged all investors and traders to transfer their industries and capital to Afghanistan to contribute to the country's progress and fulfill their responsibility for national development.

The Kabul Times



Millions of saplings to be planted nationwide this...

From P1



This comes as the Ministry of Public Health says that air pollution is the main factor behind the outbreak of various diseases in the country.

The ministry said that green areas can help beautify the environment on the one hand and prevent outbreaks of diseases on the other.

Welcoming preparations taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, irrigation, and Livestock on sapling plantations, Kabul residents said that the ministry has always made efforts to greenery the country, but the people, particularly the Kabul residents, should also take part in this regard.

The Kabul Times

Putin says Russian soldiers in Ukraine 'defending Russia's future'

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Sunday his soldiers in Ukraine are defending "national interests" and vowed "unchanged" determination to strengthen the country's armed forces on the eve of the third anniversary of Moscow's offensive on Kyiv.

"Today, at the risk of their lives and with courage, they are resolutely defending their homeland, national interests and Russia's future," he said in a video released by the Kremlin, adding "our strategy for strengthening and developing the armed forces remains unchanged."

Al-Arabiya



Uzbekistan committed to trade, transit cooperation...

From P1

Furthermore, he also invited Uzbekistan to invest in the construction of the second Salang tunnel, emphasizing that this tunnel is a key transit route linking Central Asia with South Asia and plays a fundamental role in regional trade and transportation.

Meanwhile, Abdulla Aripov, reaffirming Uzbekistan's commitment to expanding economic relations with Afghanistan, stated: "Uzbekistan fully supports all the shared initiatives aimed at strengthening economic and trade relations between Tashkent and Kabul."

Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, on Saturday, also met with Jamshid Khodjaev, that country's Deputy Prime Minister, and discussed the expansion of bilateral trade and transit relations.

The Kabul Times

Freedom; a critical examination...

From P3

This perspective was further reinforced by the idea that spiritual and worldly matters should be viewed separately.

This meant that religious beliefs were considered personal, and freedom of speech was extended to allow criticism of religious ideologies without legal repercussions. This marked a stark contrast to Islamic principles, where religious authority plays a fundamental role in governance and societal regulations.

Economic freedom became one of the most defining elements of capitalism.

As European powers expanded their colonial influence, they accumulated vast wealth, which facilitated the development of free-market principles.

Early capitalist thinkers, such as Adam Smith, opposed state intervention in economic affairs, arguing that markets should operate freely based on supply and demand.

This shift towards free-market economies allowed individuals and businesses to engage in trade without government restrictions.

The concept of economic liberalism encouraged entrepreneurship, competition, and industrialization, further strengthening capitalist societies.The modern era witnessed a transformation in the concept of freedom, shaping Western societies politically, socially, religiously, and economically. Capitalism, founded on these principles of freedom, became the dominant economic system, influencing global markets and governance structures.

While the Western approach emphasized individual autonomy and secular governance, Islamic perspectives maintained that divine authority should remain central in societal organization.

This fundamental difference continues to shape debates on governance, law, and morality in contemporary global discussions on freedom.

Mukhtar Safi